

Guiding Principles for Adaptation Responses for Inclusion in SLR Adaptation Plan

Updated May 16, 2013

The Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan will discuss adaptation responses (retreat, protect, avoid, accommodate) in general terms and describe case studies and examples of each. While the majority of the document will provide recommendations focused on improving the capacity of Delaware governments, businesses and individuals to adapt, the SLRAC also has expressed a desire to provide some guidance regarding how individual adaptation projects should be planned, considered and implemented.

The following is a draft list of Guiding Principles that resulted from discussions the SLRAC has had during discussions of adaptation. These Guiding Principles are intended to be included in the document for those conducting on-the-ground adaptation projects to consider during their planning and implementation.

1. Begin adaptation planning and implementation. Adjust and make improvements as more information is available.
2. Avoid unnecessarily prescriptive adaptation actions. **Empower** ~~Allow~~ decisions at the local level.
3. Incorporate adaptation into existing programs and mechanisms, so as to not create a new bureaucracy.
4. Engage broad public participation in adaptation decisions.
5. Use the best available science and technology for decision-making and adaptation actions.
6. Coordinate and consider consequences of adaptation between jurisdictions and between resource types
7. Strike a balance between protection of homes, infrastructure and conservation of natural resources
8. Strive for equity in selection and funding of adaptation measures
 - a. Consider impacts to environmental justice communities
 - b. Consider trade-offs between adaptation projects up-state and down-state

9a. Encourage adaptation projects where costs are shared between all who benefit

9b. Encourage development of funding mechanisms based on fairness, equity and justice for all citizens.

- a. Those who benefit the most from public investment in sea level rise adaptation efforts should contribute the most to their cost**
- b. Public investment in sea level rise adaptation should be directed toward endeavors that benefit the most citizens possible**
- c. Public investment in sea level rise adaptation should be considered and weighed against the many needs of Delaware's citizens as opposed to creating a dedicated funding source**
- a-d. Fee based funding options, if developed, must be user-related (such as motor fuel taxes that pay for roadway maintenance)**

Comment [SL1]: Comment to strengthen this wording a bit.

Comment [SL2]: DCP First attempt at a Guiding Principle for funding

Comment [SL3]: Second option submitted by SLRAC member